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REPAIRS NECESSITATE REDUCED FLOWS

[YOUGHIOGHENY RIVER LAKE](#) – Visitors to the outflow area below the Youghiogheny Dam can expect to see less water than usual in the Youghiogheny River for about a week. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District, will reduce outflows at the Youghiogheny Reservoir so that D/R Hydro Company can make repairs to steel plates near the stilling basin below the dam.

The repairs require diverting all flow through the hydropower plant turbines which must remain stationary (not generating electricity). Because the stationary turbines can only accommodate a 125 cubic feet per second (cfs) flow without being damaged, the Corps will reduce flow from the dam to that level during the repair work. 125 cfs is approximately one-fourth of the usual flow at this time of year. There will also be a five to seven hour period at the beginning and end of the work during which the gates at the dam will be completely shut. This will allow the construction and removal of a small dam within the outflow tunnel to divert the flow through the powerhouse so that repairs can be done in a relatively dry environment.

The repairs are scheduled to begin on Monday, October 25. However, beginning the repairs is contingent on weather and lake level conditions and on maintaining a flow of 450 cfs at the Connellsville gage based on the combined flow from dam releases, the Casselman River and Laurel Hill Creek. If conditions do not allow an October 25 start, the starting date could be delayed into November. Once started, work will continue daily for approximately five days with 12-hour workdays on weekdays.

The repair project will in no way affect the flood reduction capabilities of Youghiogheny Dam. In the event of an unexpected storm requiring releases in excess of 125 cfs during the repairs, the contractor will remove his equipment and the Corps will revert to its normal release schedule. Continuously recording instruments will monitor water quality in the area throughout the repairs.

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